(Area in Million Heactares)
(Production in Million Tonnes)
(Yield rate in Kg/Hectare)

Agriculture Parameter	1998-99	1999-2000*
Area	125.36	123.16
Production	203.04	201.56
Yield	1620	1637

*Advance estimates as on 27.03.2000

Although both area and production during 1999-2000 are likely to decline compared to last year, the yield rate is expected to increase marginally.

(d) To increase production and productivity of foodgrains in the country, the Government is implementing centrally sponsored integrated Cereal Development Programmes in rice/wheat/coarse cereals Based Cropping System Area, National Pulses Development Project etc. Under these programmes/project, incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation and use of improved farm implements. Research is also being continuoulsy undertaken to develop improved technologies so as to enhance the productivity and production of foodgrains in India. Field demonstrations on farmers' holding including training of farmers and farm labourers is being organised for effective transfer of technology.

Justification of Clinton's Pakistan Visit

*469. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 9th March, 2000, captioned ""US justifies decision of Clinton to visit Pakistan", and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was Government's consistent position that it is the prerogative of visiting heads of state to choose their itinerary as also decide his/their programme.

This is in accord with all established diplomatic norms and international practise. Accordingly, when President Clinton personally called PM to inform him of US reasons for going to Pakistan this was reiterated. PM did, however, let it be known that whatever US reasons, the military regime in Pakistan would portary the action as a signal of US support and endorsement. That is why, thereafter, the US publicly stated, on a number of occasions, that the visit in no way legitimises or endorses the military take over in Pakistan.

Report on Giga-Deal in Trouble

*470 SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to report captioned "Giga-Deal in Trouble" published in India Today dated the 27th March, 2000;

(b) if so, whether Government had taken-up with the Indian Embassy for finding out the antecedents of IUNet;

(c) if so, the finding of Government and the details thereof;

(d) whether the questions raised in report regarding absolute lack of transparency and departure from Standard procedure are in conformity with the findings;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) Ministry of Information Technology had requested for a business information report and background of M/s IUNet Inc. from the Indian embassy at Washington. In response the Indian Embassy forwarded a business information report dated 27.1.2000 on IUNet Inc. from M/s. Dun & Bradstreet, USA with the following information:—

Business Summary:

IUNET INC.
500 FORBES AVE
PITTSBURGH PA 15213
TEL: 412 268-2000